



Dollars & \$ENSE

What's happening in Our Community

March 2026



3 MEMBERS ELECTED VIA ACCLAMATION

The three directors whose terms are expiring at the Annual General Meeting in 2025 are Carol Warkentin, David O'Connor and Julie Fraser.

The official date for submitting nominations to the Ladysmith & District Credit Union closed on February 14, 2025. The Credit Union received 3 incumbent nominations, and no external nomination packages for the two vacancies. So the Nominating Committee, as outlined in Section 4.14 of the Credit Union Rules, declares these directors elected via acclamation. Please see their biographies below.

Carol Warkentin

Carol has called Ladysmith home since 1983 and has been a dedicated member of the LDCU since 1985. She currently serves on the Investment & Lending, Governance, Credit, and Management Committees, is a graduate of the Credit Union Director Achievement Program, and brings experience as a licensed Realtor®, builder, and developer along with a strong record of community involvement.



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Why Consistency Matters MORE

By Michael Robinson

When I was younger, I felt like I did not have enough money to worry about investing. It was something “rich” people did. With rent, bills, and everyday expenses taking priority, investing felt like something I would deal with later, once I was earning more.

It was also intimidating. When I asked questions, I felt like I should understand more than I did. Looking back, I wish I had not let that hesitation hold me back. Waiting has a cost. When we delay investing, we are not just avoiding risk, we are giving up time. Time is one of the most powerful tools we have. And consistency is what makes time work.

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Notice of 81st AGM & Special Resolution

Save the Date!
May 5, 2026

Ladysmith Secondary School – 710, 6th Avenue, Ladysmith.
(Registration begins April 6, 2026 – Register at ldcu.ca/agn)

MEMBERS ELECTED
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ICBC Appointed Agent

David O'Connor

David has lived in Ladysmith since 1985, joined the Credit Union in 1995, and has served

on the Board since 2010. A retired lawyer with 34 years of local practice, he chairs the Conduct Review Committee and serves on the Nominating, Investment & Lending, Credit, and Scholarship Committees, and is a graduate of the Credit Union Director Achievement Program.



Julie Fraser

Julie joined the Board in January 2023 and brings extensive financial services experience in audit, compliance, and strategic management. She chairs the Credit and Nominating Committees and serves on the Audit & Risk, Governance, Investment & Lending, Conduct Review, and Scholarship Committees, and is a graduate of the Credit Union Director Achievement Program.



Now showing on our Gallery Wall

in Partnership with
Ladysmith Art Gallery

Printmakers of the Salish Sea

Printmakers of the Salish Sea is a collective of printmakers creating original hand-pulled prints in local studios within coastal communities of the Salish Sea.

Formed in 2021, the Collective connects printmakers to community, creating opportunity to expand the understanding of traditional printmaking as well as non-toxic printmaking possibilities.

www.printmakersofthesalishsea.com

Members Anne Jones, Dorothy Friesen, Kirsty Henderson, Louise Slobodan, Francois Cormier and Leona Petrak

LEFT: In honour of Ethan Stone Memorial Tournament, LDCU donated \$500 to Cowichan Valley Minor Hockey Assoc. We came in silver! Well done Team!



REMEMBERING GINNY RATHWELL

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Virginia (Ginny) Rathwell, a cherished member of the LDCU family and a dear friend to so many.

Ginny dedicated 32 years to LDCU, beginning as a teller and later serving as Personal Loans Manager. She helped countless members purchase their first homes, supported families through life's milestones, and built lasting relationships. To Ginny, members were never account numbers but neighbours and friends.

Her impact extended far beyond her role at the credit union. Ginny was always ready to lend a hand — decorating parade floats, supporting local fundraisers, and contributing to initiatives that strengthened Ladysmith. She took great pride in her work and in making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Her warmth, dedication, sense of humour; and unwavering commitment to both our members and our town will never be forgotten.

Ginny will be deeply missed by all of us at LDCU and by the many people whose lives she touched.

With heartfelt sympathy,
The LDCU Family

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...CONSISTENCY MATTERS

from page 1

Investing does not require large lump sums or perfect timing. It requires steady action. Even small, regular contributions can build meaningful momentum over the years. The discipline of investing consistently is often more powerful than trying to predict the right moment.

For many people, consistency is easier said than done. That is where the right guidance can make all the difference. To better understand what a sound investment strategy should look like, I asked our Senior Financial Advisor, Alex Shannon, to share how he approaches building financial plans for his clients.

“A strong investment plan starts with defence,” Alex explained. “Instead of reacting to markets or chasing trends, we focus on building a structure that can support long term growth through different economic environments. When the foundation is solid, everything else works better over time.”

Portfolios are built using a mix of Canadian and global dividend paying investments, high interest holdings, bonds, and precious metals. *“Dividends and interest provide steady income,”* he said, *“which helps keep portfolios balanced without relying on market timing.”* Bonds are positioned thoughtfully as conditions evolve, while precious metals provide balance during periods of inflation or global uncertainty.

For Alex, defence extends beyond the portfolio. *“Real financial confidence comes from having your retirement income structured properly, your estate organized, and your tax strategy working efficiently,”* he noted. Protection planning is part of that structure as well. Life, disability, and critical illness insurance are designed around real life and responsibilities, with a focus on clarity and suitability.

At its core, Alex’s philosophy is about preparation. When a plan is built with intention and designed to truly fit the individual, clients can move forward with confidence knowing their strategy is steady, structured, and built to support them through every stage of life.

If this perspective resonates with you, Alex Shannon welcomes conversations with individuals and families who want to build a financial plan that fits their life and goals. Call 250-245-6371 to book your appointment.



at good is online banking if you can't
nload free money from the Internet?

RIGHT: LDCU donated \$5,500 to Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce with Roberta Bowman accepting the cheque.



LaFF Executive Director, Jacqueline Neligan, accepts a \$1250 cheque for their Family Pass Program



ABOVE: LDCU Marketing Manager, Michael Robinson presents a \$500 cheque to Tanya Reid from Ladysmith Resource Centre for their Holiday Storybook Walk



Reimagine Investing



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Let's Get Together.

"With a Finance degree and years of real-world experience, I deliver practical, values-driven advice you can act on. Whether it's cash flow, retirement, tax, or estate planning, I'll help you build a clear, personalized strategy to reach your goals. Let's get started. Call 250-591-4077 to book your appointment today."

Alex Shannon, QAFP — Financial Advisor, Investment & Retirement Planning

Congratulations to Michael Robinson on receiving a 2026 Heritage Award for his work on the LDCU heritage timeline mural. Michael's mural brings more than 80 years of local history to life, highlighting the people, milestones, and cooperative spirit that have shaped both the Credit Union and Ladysmith.



Our Community. Your Credit Union.

1944 - LDCU Insurance division started selling home insurance in addition to Autoplan. Insurance Agencies affiliated with provincial Credit Unions had to be registered as separate entities to LCU Insurance Agencies was created.

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2021 - LDCU Insurance division started selling home insurance in addition to Autoplan. Insurance Agencies affiliated with provincial Credit Unions had to be registered as separate entities to LCU Insurance Agencies was created.

2024 - LDCU Insurance division started selling home insurance in addition to Autoplan. Insurance Agencies affiliated with provincial Credit Unions had to be registered as separate entities to LCU Insurance Agencies was created.